(b) whether the Department has earned a revenue of Rs. 400 crore during the year 2006-07 fiscal and has targeted an increase in the revenue by more than 25 per cent;

(c) whether in order to achieve a target of Rs. 550 crore, the Department has set product-wise and month-wise goals and designed strategies to meet these targets; and

(d) whether the Department propose to extend the service to all other branches in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) to (d) Maharashtra Postal Circle has projected a revenue target of Rs. 550 crores from business products like Speed Post, Express Parcel Post, Business Post, Bill Mail Service etc. for the year 2007-08 against its achievement of Rs. 416.66 crores revenue from these products during 2006-07. The circle has also worked out a Business Plan for the year 2007-08. These products and services are provided in various post offices in the State. These services are extended as needed taking into account market requirements, customer needs, expected business, transport facilities available etc.

Complaints pending under Nalanda Telephone Exchange

2479. SHRI BASHISTHA NARAIN SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that telephone connections at Gajraj Bigha under Nalanda Exchange had not been working at a stretch even for 15 days for the last one year;

(b) whether Government are also aware that despite repeated complaints and reminders, no concrete steps have been initiated by the local officials to attend to the problems;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the action Government propose to take to ensure that the telephone connections work uninterrupted so that the consumers are not forced to switch over to other service providers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Sir, telephone connections at Gajraj Bigha village under Nalanda Telephone exchange had been generally working satisfactorily. However during last six months, these telephones have been affected due to frequent cable thefts and damage to cables by road widening agency which are being restored time and again.

(b) and (c) Immediate action is taken by BSNL on receipt of the complaints and all out efforts are made to restore the services within shortest possible time except in cases of cable thefts and damages to cables due to road widening activities.

(d) To prevent damage to cables due to road widening activities the matter was taken up with the concerned State Government authorities who have issued

instructions to all agencies to co-ordinate with local Telecom authorities, while carrying out road construction/widening activities. In regard to cable theft, law and order authorities have been requested for tightening the vigilance. BSNL has also increased patrolling on susceptible routes.

Cable connection between Gajraj Bigha and Nalanda Exchange

2480. SHRI BASHISTHA NARAIN SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that new underground cable was recently laid to connect Gajraj Bigha with Nalanda Exchange as the previous cable was badly damaged;

(b) whether that cable was damaged because standard depth of one metre was not kept and it was laid at a depth of one and a half feet;

(c) whether Government are aware that the new cable has also been damaged because it was again laid at a depth of one and a half feet;

(d) if so, whether Government would enquire into the matter and punish the contractor and officials; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Cable was laid at a standard depth. However, the cable was exposed partly during rains/floods, being a kacha road. The cable was also damaged due to thefts.

(c) The newly laid cable has also been damaged at different locations due to road widening works by State Government, although it was laid at a standard depth.

(d) and (e) To prevent damage to cables due to road widening activities, the matter was taken up with the concerned State Government authorities, who have issued instructions to all agencies to coordinate with telecom authorities while carrying out road construction/widening activities. In regard to cable thefts, law and order authorities have been requested for tightening the vigilance by law enforcing agencies. First Information Reports (FIRs) have been lodged for theft of cables. BSNL has also increased patrolling on susceptible routes.

Setting UP of integrated modern townships

2481. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATION AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of draft policy prepared by his Ministry in connection with setting up of integrated modern townships in Tier II and Tier III cities;

(b) whether it is a fact that his Ministry has identified some places in the country for setting up of integrated townships in the country;

(c) if so the details of places identified in the State of Andhra Pradesh for developing them into integrated townships;